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30 August 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

State Department review completed

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West Germany: Chancellor Erhard may request a reduction in future military offset payments during his visit to Washington on 26-27 September.

State Secretary Carstens, Foreign Minister Schroeder's deputy, has told Ambassador McGhee that Bonn is considering such a plan. Germany currently is obligated to pay \$1.35 billion over a two-year period ending in mid-1967.

Carstens also said that the Defense Ministry might propose sending larger numbers of military personnel to the US for training, with costs applied against the offset.

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India: Prime Minister Gandhi is under increasing pressure to broaden the base of her government.

Mrs. Gandhi's ranking administrative aide, L. K. Jha, recently told Ambassador Bowles that virulent opposition attacks have deepened divisions within the ruling Congress Party and that three major factions are emerging. They center on Mrs. Gandhi, party president Kamaraj, and former finance minister Morarji Desai. Jha believes that within the next 60 days two of these groups will unite against the third in order to dominate the party in its campaign for the general elections scheduled for February 1967.

Although Jha's analysis seems oversimplified--most party leaders appear to be avoiding entanglements and awaiting further developments--significant party realignments are likely. Mrs. Gandhi, who has only a limited number of firmly committed backers, may be compelled to make cabinet changes to broaden support for her government.

Desai told Ambassador Bowles on 26 August that there was at least an even chance of a cabinet shuffle before mid-November. He expressed willingness to join the government if offered the second-ranking position and claimed that influential Defense Minister Chavan is pressing for a Gandhi-Desai rapprochement. Nevertheless, Mrs. Gandhi, who defeated Desai in the contest last January for the premiership, has not yet offered him a post, and Ambassador Bowles doubts that she will do so. [REDACTED]

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NOTES

Colombia: Leftist students are threatening a nationwide strike in protest against recent government moves to curb student excesses. The student leaders have committed their prestige to challenging the government's measures and would find it difficult to back away from the threatened strike. President Lleras seems determined not to yield to student demands and to use the situation to establish his new government's authority. He can be expected to deal severely with any threat to public order posed by a strike. [REDACTED]

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*Jordan: [Cairo may be trying to embroil Jordan in a clash with Israel during King Husayn's current absence from the country. Crown Prince Hassan has informed the US Ambassador in Amman that the Egyptian-dominated United Arab Command wants Jordan to invade Israel in accordance with prearranged Arab plans because of alleged reports that Israel is massing troops for a strike against Syria. The absence of any corroborating evidence of such Israeli troop deployments suggests that Cairo hopes to embarrass Husayn either through a probable defeat at the hands of the Israelis or, if Jordan fails to act, by charging he is derelict in his duty as an Arab ruler.]

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